Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for others, and each of these attributes can be ascribed to Millie Rexroat who wanted to do her part in the war efforts in the 1940s; and,

Whereas, Millie was working at the Army War College in Washington, D.C. at the start of World War II, she learned to fly, gained the required flight time and was accepted into the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP's); and,

Whereas, Millie served in the WASP's, which flew noncombat missions so male pilots could train and deploy; and,

Whereas, The WASP pilots' story lived in obscurity for years because of stigma and secret records, and they were not officially recognized until 1977; and,

Whereas, Millie is one of only 275 surviving WASP's of the original 1,074 and is the last in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, This Oglala Lakotan is the only female Native American to serve in the WASP's; and,

Whereas, When the WASP program was disbanded, Millie became one of the first female air traffic controllers for the Federal Aviation Administration – a job she stayed with until she retired; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize this dedicated public servant for her service to this great country:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 26, 2017, as

MILLIE REXROAT DAY

in South Dakota, and I thank her for pioneering new horizons for women – both in the military and beyond.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State